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(54) **SUPPORTING A HAMMOCK ON A VEHICLE**

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B63B 29/06 (2013.01)

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B63B 17/00; **B63B 29/06**
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See application file for complete search history.

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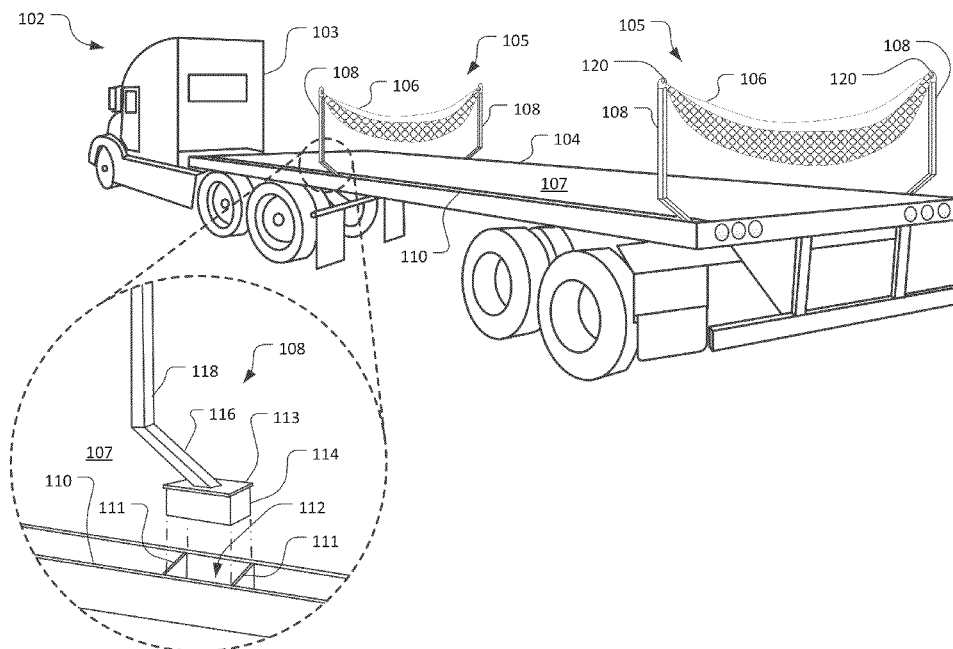
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ABSTRACT

This document provides hammock systems and methods for using a hammock system. For example, a hammock support system can suspend a hammock over a vehicle by attaching first and second end connectors of a hammock to a pair of support structures, respectively, which are mated with corresponding receiving structures of a vehicle, respectively.

21 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



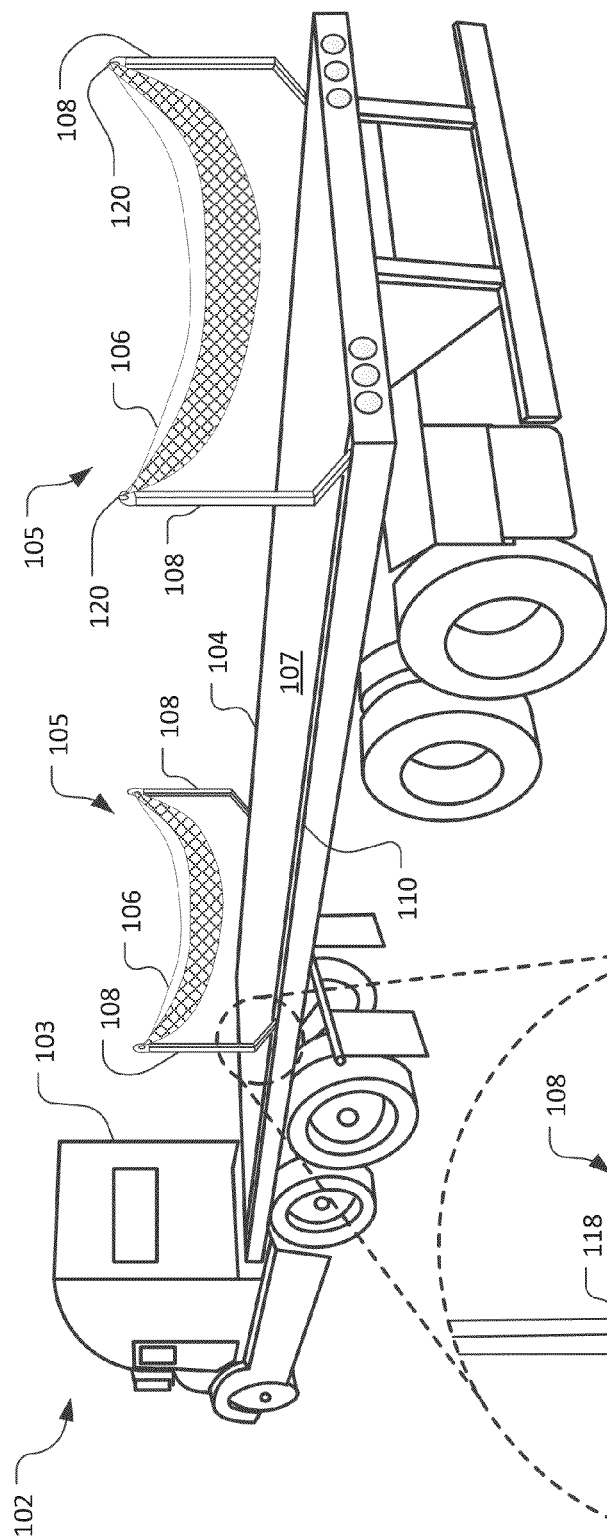


FIG. 1A

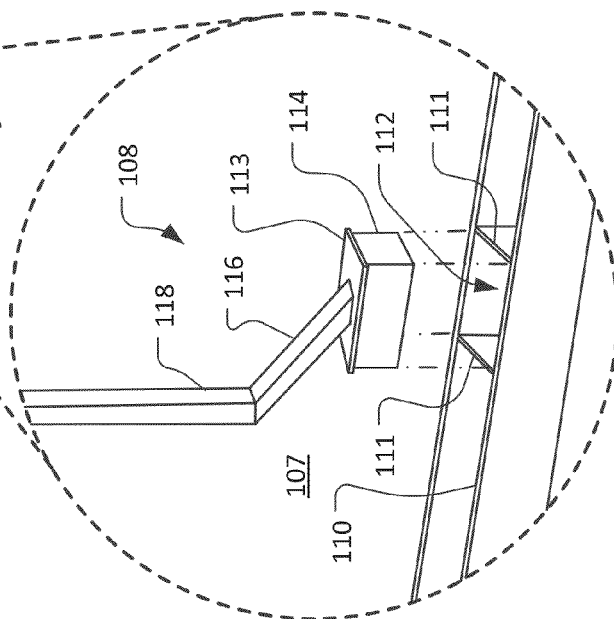
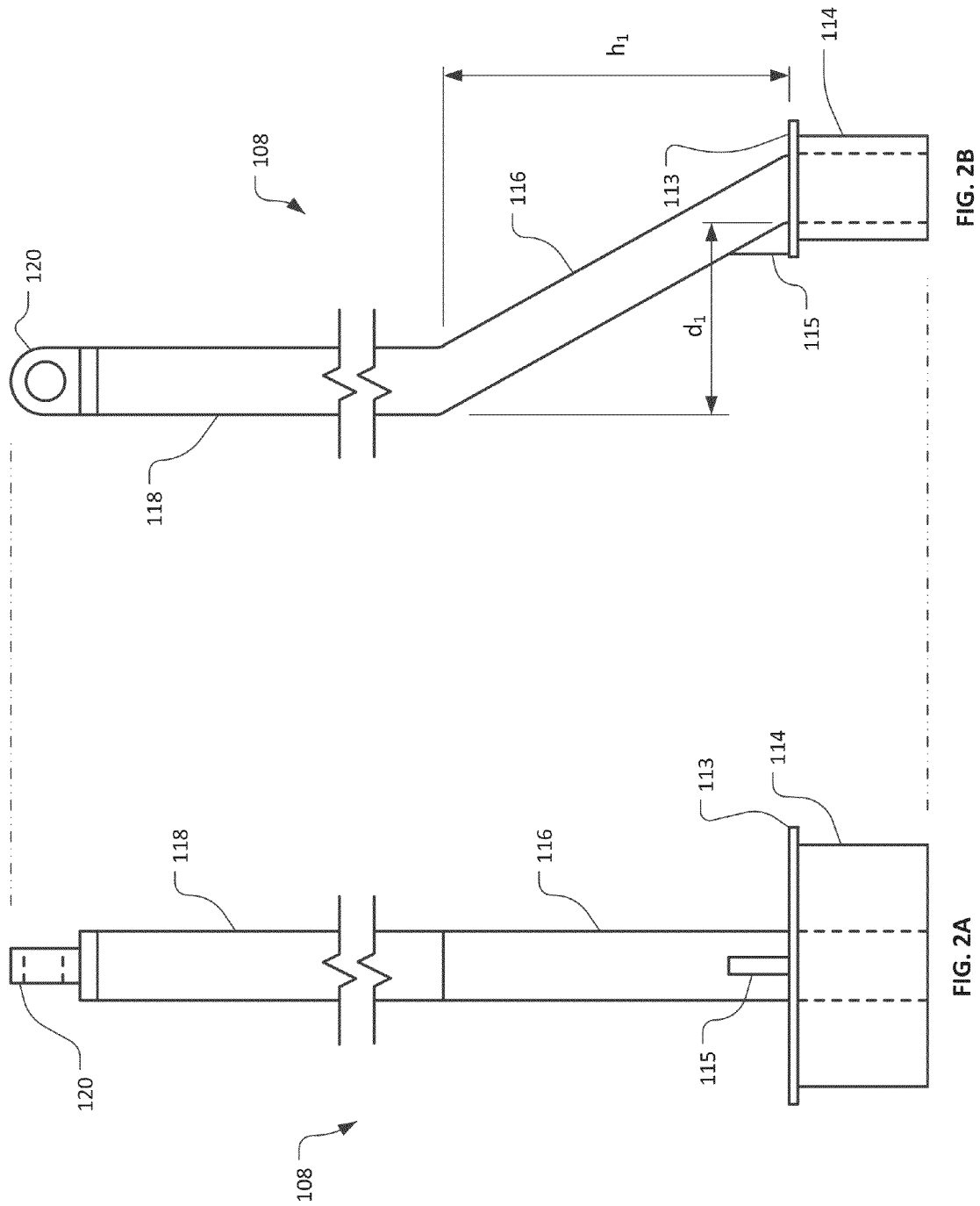


FIG. 1B



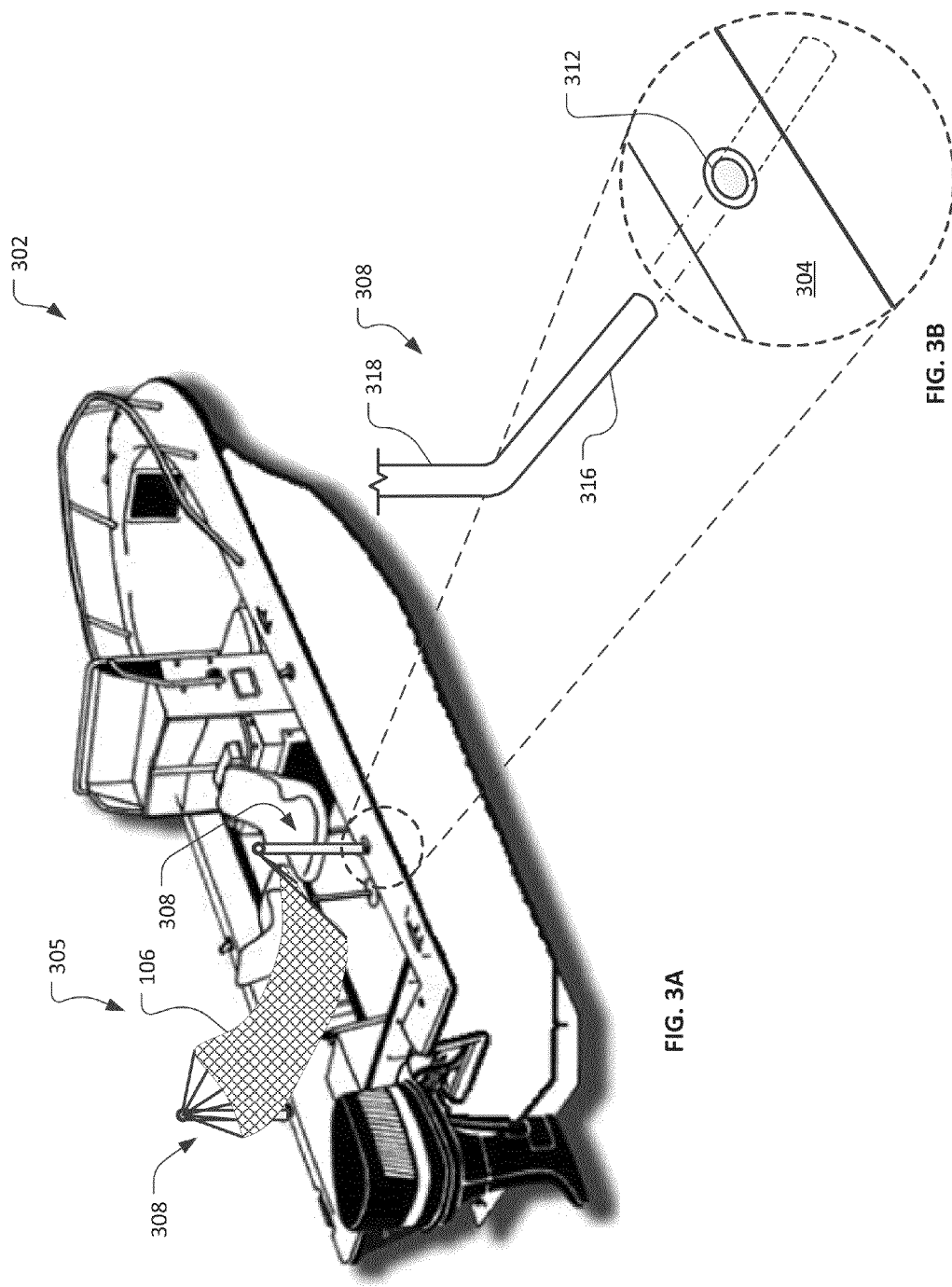


FIG. 3A

FIG. 3B

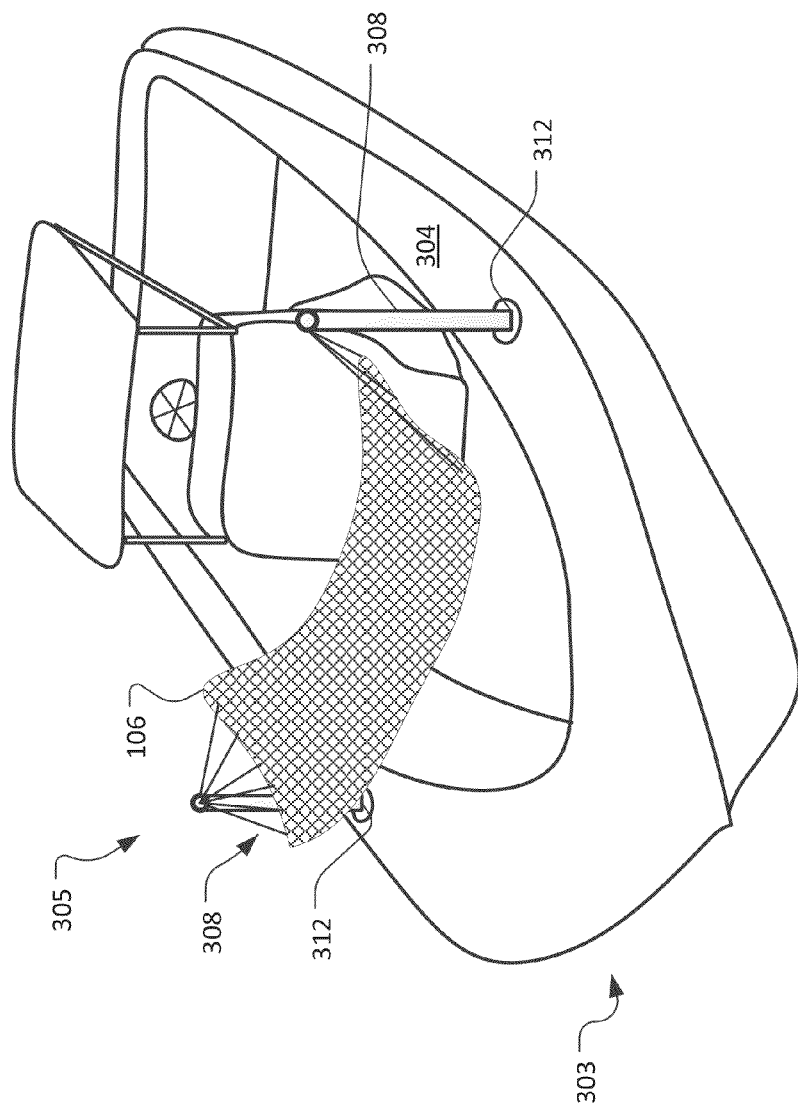


FIG. 4

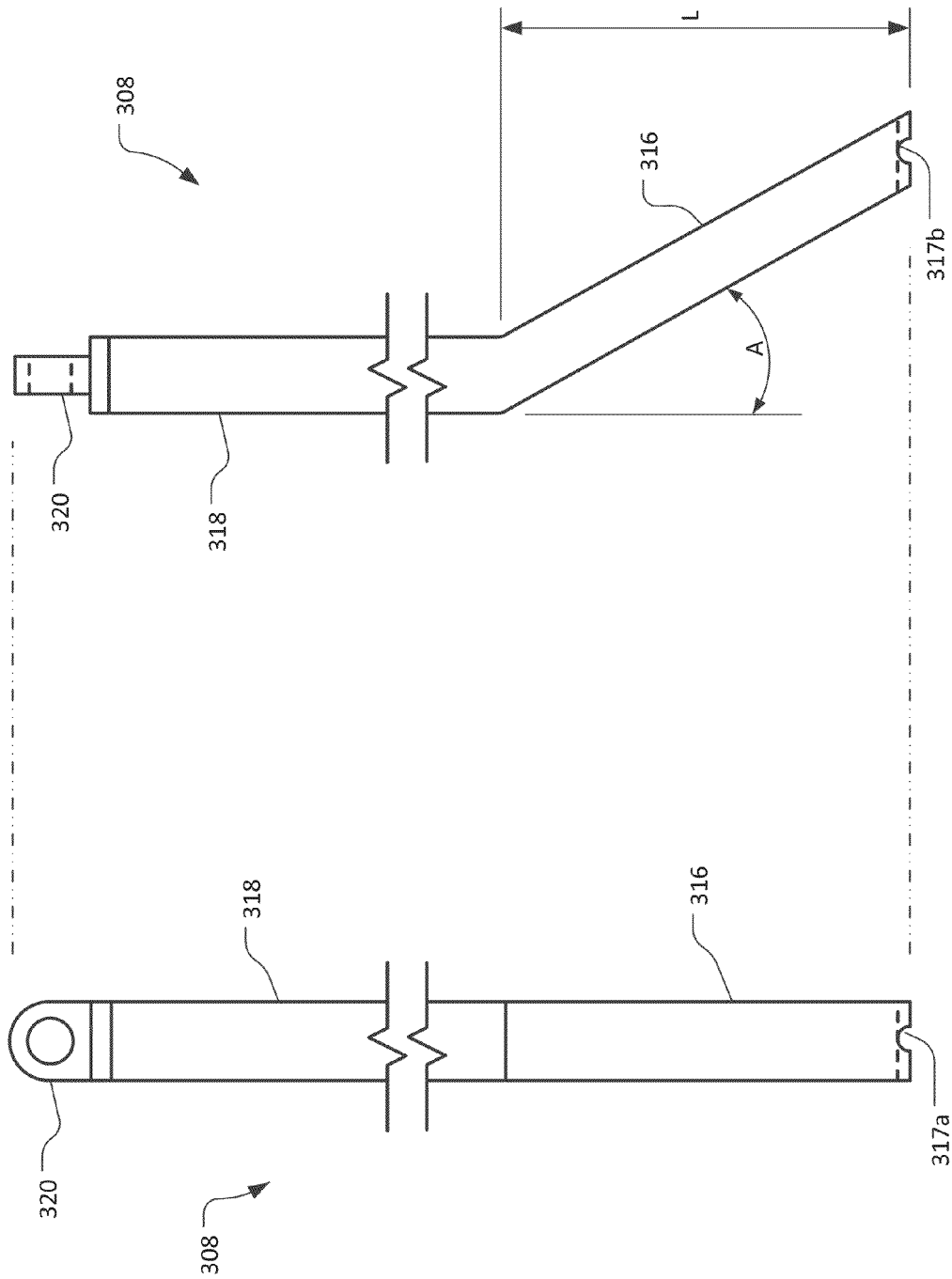


FIG. 5B

FIG. 5A

SUPPORTING A HAMMOCK ON A VEHICLE**TECHNICAL FIELD**

This application generally relates to a hammock system, such as a hammock system for supporting a hammock on a vehicle.

BACKGROUND

Hammocks have been popularly used in various settings for relaxation and sleep. Their popularity likely stems from their unique design, relative simplicity, low cost, and, in some designs, portability. Hammocks are commonly used for resting outdoors without the mess and discomfort of lying directly on the ground. Hammocks can be found in various places from rural gardens and suburban yards to sandy beaches and camping sites under the shade of trees. They have even been used in the quarters of battleships. In general, hammocks require a frame or other support structure to which the ends of the hammock can be attached to suspend the hammock some height off the ground beneath it. In some instances, such as in some lawn and garden sets, the hammock is supported by a freestanding frame particularly adapted for use as a hammock support structure. In other uses, the hammock may simply be tied between two natural or pre-existing structures in a given setting, such as between two trees in a lawn, forest, or beach, for example.

SUMMARY

This document describes systems and techniques by which at least one hammock can be suspended from a vehicle. A hammock support system can suspend a hammock over a vehicle by attaching first and second end connectors of a hammock to a pair of support structures, respectively. In some embodiments, the support structures mate with preexisting physical features of the vehicle to secure the system and retain the support structures in an upright position. For example, recesses or other openings defined by the vehicle can be used to mate with and secure the hammock support system with sufficient strength to allow one or more persons to lay and swing in the hammock. In some particular implementations, a pair of support structures of the hammock support system can be inserted into stake pockets along the side of a flatbed trailer. In other implementations, the system can be used on a boat by inserting the support structures into fishing rod holders. One advantage of some systems and techniques described herein is the ability to quickly and easily setup and take down a hammock on a vehicle. For instance, truck drivers that spend substantial amounts of time driving or waiting for cargo and deliveries can park the truck and use the described systems and techniques to setup a hammock on their truck to rest outdoors when desired. Moreover, in some implementations the support structures for the hammock can be installed on the vehicle without other tools or hardware, and without mounting additional permanent structures on the vehicle or otherwise modifying the vehicle.

In one implementation, a method of using a hammock system may include inserting first and second hammock support structures into first and second receiving structures of a vehicle, respectively. The first and second receiving structures each may define an opening to mate with a vehicle connection adapter of one of the first and second hammock support structures. The method may further include suspending a hammock between the first and second support structures and above a surface of the vehicle by attaching first and

second end connectors of the hammock to upper attachment members of the first and second support structures, respectively.

This and other implementations can optionally include one or more of the following features. The vehicle can include a flatbed trailer and the first and second receiving structures of the vehicle can each include a stake pocket of the flatbed trailer, and the surface of the vehicle includes a cargo deck of the flatbed trailer. The vehicle can include a boat and the first and second receiving structures of the vehicle can each include a rod holder that is adapted to receive a fishing rod. The vehicle can include a pickup truck and the first and second receiving structures of the vehicle can each include a stake pocket of the pickup truck. The first and second receiving structures can be located near or along a perimeter of the vehicle. Suspending the hammock between the first and second support structures can include attaching first and second ends of the hammock to respective attachment members on each of the first and second support structures. The attachment member can be rotated relative to one of the first receiving structure and the second receiving structure, and/or a height of at least one of the attachment members can be adjusted. Each of the attachment members can include at least one of a protrusion from the support structure, an eyelet, an aperture through the support structure, and a fitting connected to the support structure. The method can further include removing the first and second support structures from the first and second receiving structures of the vehicle, respectively, and storing the first and second support structures in a carrying case.

In one implementation, a hammock system may include a hammock having a first end connector and a second end connector. Also, the system may include first and second hammock support structures. Each of the first and second hammock support structures may include an upper attachment member to connect the respective hammock support structure to the first end connector or the second end connector of the hammock. Each of the first and second hammock support structures may also include a vehicle connection adapter configured to releasably mate with a corresponding mounting structure of a vehicle. The vehicle connection adapter may be spaced apart from the upper attachment member such that the upper attachment member of the respective hammock support structure is elevated above the vehicle connection adapter when the vehicle connection adapter releasably mates with the corresponding mounting structure of the vehicle.

This and other implementations can optionally include one or more of the following features. The system can further include the vehicle, and the vehicle can include a flatbed trailer. The mounting structure can include a stake pocket of the flatbed trailer, and the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures can be elevated above a surface of the flatbed trailer when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock support structures releasably mates with the stake pocket. The surface of the vehicle can include a cargo deck of the flatbed trailer.

The vehicle can include a pickup truck. The mounting structure can include a stake pocket of the pickup truck, and the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures can be elevated above a surface of the pickup truck when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock support structures releasably mates with the stake pocket. The surface of the vehicle can include a bed of the pickup truck.

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The hammock system may optionally include the vehicle, which may include a boat. The mounting structure can include a rod holder that is adapted to receive a fishing rod, wherein the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures is elevated above a surface of the vehicle when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock support structures releasably mates with the rod holder, and the surface of the vehicle comprises a gunwale of the boat.

The hammock system may optionally include the vehicle, which may include a plurality of mounting structures located near or along a perimeter of the vehicle. The upper attachment member can bend from the vehicle connection adapter at a first angle that is within fifteen degrees of a second angle defined by a longitudinal axis of the rod holder and a vertical axis.

In one implementation, a pair of hammock support structures for installing a hammock on a vehicle can include a vehicle connection adapter positioned proximate to a first end of the hammock support structure. The vehicle connection adapter may include a base member configured to releasably mate with a corresponding recess of a mounting structure of a vehicle. Each of the pair of support structures may also include an upper attachment member positioned proximate to a second end of the hammock support structure that is generally opposite from the first end. The upper attachment member may be configured to attach to a corresponding end connector of a hammock and to mechanically support the corresponding end connector of the hammock in an elevated position.

This and other implementations can optionally include one or more of the following features. The second end of at least one of the hammock support structures can be oriented substantially vertically when the vehicle connection adapter is releasably mated with the corresponding recess of the mounting structure of the vehicle. The vehicle connection adapter can be shaped to slidably insert into a stake pocket of a flatbed trailer. The vehicle connection adapter can be shaped to slidably insert into a rod holder of a boat that is adapted to receive a fishing rod. The vehicle connection adapter can be shaped to slidably insert into a stake pocket of a pickup truck. Each of the hammock support structures can include a central elongate shaft portion positioned between the vehicle connection adapter and the upper attachment member, wherein the central elongate shaft portion extends longitudinally at an angle outwardly from a vertical plane defined by a side surface of one of the vehicle connection adapter and the upper attachment member. The hammock support structures can be made of aluminum, stainless steel, a steel alloy, and/or a polymer material.

Other features and advantages will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A depicts two example hammock systems that are adapted for installation on a flatbed trailer vehicle, in accordance with some implementations.

FIG. 1B is an enlarged view of an example arrangement for mating one of the hammock systems of FIG. 1A to the flatbed trailer.

FIGS. 2A and 2B depict front and side views, respectively, of a hammock support structure of the hammock systems of FIG. 1A, in accordance with some implementations.

FIG. 3A depicts an example hammock system that is adapted for installation on a boat vehicle, in accordance with some implementations.

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FIG. 3B is an enlarged view of an example arrangement for mating the hammock system of FIG. 3A to a rod holder built into a gunwale of the boat.

FIG. 4 depicts an example hammock system installed near the bow of a boat vehicle, in accordance with some implementations.

FIGS. 5A and 5B depict front and side views, respectively, of a hammock support structure of the hammock systems of FIGS. 3A and 4, in accordance with some implementations.

Like reference numbers and indications in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1A depicts two example hammock systems **105** for suspending a hammock **106** over a portion of a vehicle **102**. According to one implementation, as depicted in FIG. 1A, the vehicle **102** can include a truck **103** connected to a flatbed trailer **104**. In this embodiment, the hammock systems **105** each include the hammock **106** and a pair of hammock support structures **108**. The hammock support structures **108** can operate, for example, as stanchions that are secured to the vehicle **102** and to which the hammock **106** can be connected and suspended above the vehicle **102**.

The hammock system **105** is configured for use with one or more types of vehicles **102**. As shown in FIG. 1, the vehicle **102** may include a truck **103**, a flatbed trailer **104**, or a combination thereof. For example, the hammock system **105** can be secured to the flatbed trailer **104** that is a part of the truck **103**. The vehicle **102** can also include the flatbed trailer **104** when it is disconnected from the truck **103** or any other motor vehicle. For example, the hammock system **105** may be configured for use with a variety of types and sizes of flatbed trucks, such as shorter, two-axle trucks with a fixed trailer, larger trucks that have three or more axles (including trailer axles), or a combination thereof. The trailer **104** can also be an articulating trailer that can be towed or disconnected from the truck **103**.

Flatbed trailers **104**, such as the one depicted in FIGS. 1A and 1B, may include rub rails **110** on each side of the trailer **104**. The rub rails **110** run along a length of each side of the trailer **104**. In some cases, the rub rails **110** run substantially entirely from the front of the trailer **104** to the rear of the trailer **104**. The rails **110** may have a standard or universal configuration across a variety of different trailers. The rails **110** may be made of a metal or metal alloy such as steel, and are spaced from a side edge of the trailer **104** by a few inches. The space between the rails **110** and the side edges of the trailer's **104** cargo deck **107** allow devices such as chains, straps, or pipe stakes to fit between the space, for example, to secure cargo during transport and/or loading.

The hammock system **105** can be mated to one or more recesses of the vehicle **102** so that, for example, the system **105** is anchored into a secured positioned relative to the vehicle. In some embodiments, the recesses may each be defined by at least three sidewalls with an upper opening and bottom that is either opened or closed. In some implementations, the recesses may be defined by a physical feature that is integrated with and/or built-in to the vehicle **102** (e.g., the rub rails **110**). In some implementations, separate structures may be added on or connected to the vehicle **102** that form one or more of the recesses.

According to the implementation depicted in FIGS. 1A and 1B, one or more of the recesses can be a stake pocket **112** of the flatbed trailer **104**. In such embodiments, the recess **112** is defined by four sidewalls with an open top and bottom, and may be sized to receive a wood board such as a "2x4" piece of

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lumber. For example, the stake pockets **112** on the flatbed trailer **104** can generally be between about 1.5×3.5 inches and 2×4 inches. The stake pockets **112** on the flatbed trailer **104** can be formed between the side edges of the trailer **104** and the rub rail **110**, which can define two of the stake pocket sidewalls. Connecting plates **111** that run perpendicularly between the rub rail **110** and the side edge of the trailer **104** can form the remaining two sidewalls of the stake pocket **112**. In some implementations, stake pockets **112** may be provided elsewhere on the vehicle **102**, and may be formed from brackets mounted to a surface of the vehicle **102**, for example.

As previously described, the hammock system **105** in this embodiment includes the pair of stanchions **108** to which the hammock **106** is attached and suspended between. Each of the stanchions **108** can be anchored to the vehicle by mating with the recess **112**, such as the stake pocket of the trailer **104** in this example. The stanchion **108** has a base portion **114** that has a complementary shape to the stake pocket **112**, and that is configured to be slidably received in the stake pocket **112**. A flange **113** above the base portion **114** rests atop the stake pocket **112** when the stanchion **108** is mated with the stake pocket **112**. The flange provides a hard-stop to vertically position the stanchion **108**, thereby preventing the stanchion **108** from sliding below a determined depth in the stake pocket **112**. In this way, the stake pocket **112** supports the stanchion **108** in a substantially vertical position so that a pair of the stanchions **108** is capable of suspending a hammock **106** and supporting the weight of one or more persons in the hammock **106**.

As illustrated in FIG. 1A, the hammocks **106** can be suspended above a surface of the vehicle **102** and the respective base portions **114** of the stanchions **108**. The surface of the vehicle **102** can include an interior or exterior surface of the vehicle **102**, such as the cargo deck **107** of the flatbed trailer **104** having the rub rails **110**.

In some implementations, the pair of stanchions **108** can be secured on opposite sides of the vehicle **102**, such as across a width of the flatbed trailer **104**. A common width of flatbed trailers **104** is 8.5 feet, and the stanchions **108** can be shaped to extend outwardly from one or both of the vertical planes of the respective sides of the trailer **104** to increase the distance between attachment points on the stanchions **108**, so that a longer hammock **106** can be used. Shorter hammocks **106** can also be used, for instance, by reversing the orientation of one or both of the stanchions **108** to extend inwardly from one or both of the vertical planes of the respective sides of the trailer **104**. The stanchions **108** can also be configured without angling. In other words, in alternative implementations the stanchions can have a substantially linear shape that extends generally vertically from the corresponding recesses **112** of the vehicle **102**.

The hammock system **105** can be used in various orientations in relation to the vehicle **102**. For example, a user can change the orientation of the system **105** by removing one or more of the stanchions **108** (if the stanchions **108** were previously installed) from respective stake pockets **112**, and inserting the stanchions **108** into one or more other stake pockets **112** on the vehicle **102**. For instance, rather than suspending the hammock **106** across the flatbed trailer **104** from a right side of the trailer **104** to a left side of the trailer **104**, the hammock **106** may also be suspended along the length of a particular side of the flatbed trailer **104** by installing the pair of stanchions **108** in separate stake pockets **112** on the same side of the trailer **104**. At times, a portion of the cargo deck **107** on the flatbed trailer **104** may be filled with cargo, and the hammock system **105** can be setup near an unfilled portion of the trailer **104**. As the loading changes and cargo is

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repositioned from one portion of the trailer **104** to another, the hammock system **105** can be relocated accordingly. In some implementations, multiple hammock systems **105** can be setup on a vehicle **102**. For example, when a driver and one or more passengers each desire rest, separate hammock systems **105** can be setup for each person.

Various types of hammocks **106** can be used in the hammock system **105**. For instance, spreader hammocks, Mayan hammocks, and jungle hammocks may all be compatible with the hammock system **105**. Moreover, the hammock **106** may be made of various fabric materials, including cotton, nylon, polyester, rope, reinforced polymers, or a combination thereof. Because particular types of hammocks may be more suitable for different conditions, environments, and/or people, the hammock system **105** can be configured to operate any of a variety of different hammock types that are interchangeably installed to the stanchions **108**. For instance, a wider hammock **106** may be installed where more than one person intend to use the hammock **106**. Likewise, a hammock **106** with a tarp or mosquito cover may be used to increase privacy, block sun or rain, and/or to keep out pests.

FIGS. 2A and 2B depict front and side views, respectively, of the hammock support structure **108** according to one example implementation. As described previously in reference to FIG. 1A, the hammock support structure **108** can operate as a stanchion that is used as part of the hammock system **105** to install the hammock **106** on the vehicle **102**, such as the flatbed trailer **104**. The stanchion **108** can include one or more of the base portion **114**, flange **113**, structural reinforcement **115**, elongate angled member **116**, extension portion **118**, and attachment member **120**. These components of the stanchion **108** may be mechanically connected (e.g., via fasteners, welding, press-fitting, threading, use of adhesives, or the like), or integrally formed as a unitary structure (e.g., by a machining, molding, or casting process). The stanchion **108** may be made of any suitable material or combinations of materials including but not limited to aluminum, aluminum alloys, stainless steel, steel alloys, fiberglass, graphite, polymer materials, or a combination thereof. Stainless steel, aluminum, or galvanized steel may be well-suited, for example, to protect against corrosion. Aluminum, fiberglass, or plastic may be well-suited to reducing the weight of the stanchions **108** in some examples.

The base portion **114** is located at or near a first end of the stanchion **108**, and is received in a recess of the vehicle in use. In the implementation shown, the base portion **114** is generally rectangular and shaped to mate with the recess **112** in the form of the stake pocket on a flatbed trailer **104** (refer to FIG. 1B). In general however, the base portion **114** can be configured as a vehicle connection adapter in any shape such that it complementarily mates with a suitable recess on a vehicle. The base portion **114** may be constructed as a hollow shell with sidewalls, or may be solid or contain other material in its interior to, for example, provide additional weight to the stanchion **108**. The base portion **114** can be fabricated by extrusion, welding, machining, molding, casting, and the like, or by a combination of such techniques.

The base portion **114** is sized slightly smaller than the recess so that the base portion **114** can readily slide into the recess, but is still large enough to prevent the stanchion **108** from rotating or tilting significantly. For example, in some embodiments the stanchions **108** may be prevented from rotating, tilting, and/or wobbling more than five degrees in any direction from a vertical axis of the recess **112** when the stanchion **108** is mated with the vehicle **102**. In some implementations, the length and width of the base portion **114** beneath the flange **113** are about 1/8-inch or less smaller than

the corresponding recess dimensions. For example, for a stanchion **108** configured to be received in a 3.5x1.5 inch stake pocket, the base portion **114** may be approximately 3.375x1.375 inches. However, in other implementations more or less clearance may be provided. The base portion **114** is also sufficiently deep to provide adequate support against torque and other stresses when the hammock is in use. For example, in some implementations the depth of the base portion **114** may approximately equal the vertical depth of sidewalls defining the recess that receives the base portion **114**. However, in other implementations the depth of the base portion **114** is greater than or less than the vertical depth of a sidewalls defining the recess that receives the base portion **114**.

The flange **113** in this embodiment defines an upper limit of the base portion **114**. The flange **113** can be a plate that is connected to the base portion **114** and that provides a small overhang around at least a portion of a perimeter of the base portion **114**. The overhang is sufficiently large to interfere with at least a portion of a peripheral surface surrounding the recess to prevent the stanchion **108** from sliding through the recess beyond the depth of the base portion **114**. For example, in reference to FIGS. 1A and 1B, when the stake pocket **112** on the flatbed trailer **104** receives the stanchion **108**, the flange **113** can provide approximately 1/8-inch to approximately 1/2-inch overhang so that the overhang portion is configured to abut a top peripheral surface of the corresponding recess **112**. In other implementations, more or less overhang can be used. In some implementations, the flange **113** may be welded or otherwise mechanically connected to the top of the base portion **114**. Also, in other implementations, the flange **113** may extend from less than all peripheral sides of the base portion **114**. For example, the flange **113** may extend from only two sides of the perimeter of the base portion **114**.

Still referring to FIGS. 2A and 2B, the elongate angled member **116** extends upwardly away from the base portion **114** and the flange **113**. The angled member **116** extends vertically by a height h_1 and horizontally by a distance d_1 from the base portion **114** or flange **113**. The distance d_1 can represent the offset between horizontal positions of the attachment member **120** and the base portion **114**. The distance d_1 provided by the elongate angled member **116** allows the distance between attachment points **120** of a pair of stanchions **108** to be greater than or less than the distance between the recesses of a vehicle, which are generally fixed. For example, in reference to FIG. 1A, a pair of stanchions **108** having elongate angled members **116** that each have an offset (d_1) of three inches may be installed on the flatbed trailer **104** to increase the distance between the attachment members **120** by six inches (two times d_1) from the distance between the corresponding stake pockets **112**. Similarly, by reversing the orientation of the stanchions **108**, the distance between the attachment members **120** can be reduced by six inches from the distance between the corresponding stake pockets **112** in which the stanchions **108** are installed. Alternatively, by reversing the orientation of just one of the stanchions **108**, the distance between the attachment members **120** will equal the distance between the corresponding stake pockets **112**.

The elongate angled member **116** may extend at an angle directly from the flange **113** or base portion **114**, or the angle may start elsewhere along the length of the stanchion **108**. In some implementations, the angled member **116** includes a central elongate shaft portion that extends longitudinally at an angle outwardly from a vertical plane defined by a side surface of the base portion **114** and the attachment member **120**.

A structural reinforcement member **115** may connect between the elongate angled member **116** and the flange **113** or base portion **114**. In some implementations, the structural

reinforcement member **115** includes a gusset that is welded, bolted, riveted, or otherwise attached between the elongate angled member **116** and the flange **114** or base portion **114**. In general, suitable reinforcement members may be included on other portions of the stanchion **108** as needed to enhance the strength and fatigue resistance of the stanchion **108**.

An extension portion **118** can provide additional height to the stanchion **108**. The extension portion **118** can be connected or formed along the length of the stanchion **108**, such as between the attachment member **120** and the elongate angled member **116**, or between the flange **113** or base portion **114** and the elongate angled member **116**. In some implementations, the stanchion **108** can include multiple extension portions **118**. The extension portions **118** generally extend along or parallel to a longitudinal axis of the base portion **114**.

The extension portion **118** and elongate angled member **116** can be formed from metal piping or tubing in one example. The piping or tubing can have a cross-sectional shape that is square, round, rectangular, or other shapes. The pieces can be connected mechanically, such as by threads, slots and grooves, hinges, or removable pins that may allow for easy disassembly and compact storage; or they may be welded together for permanent attachment. In some implementations, one or more extension portions **118** and one or more elongate angled members **116** may be formed by bending a single continuous piece of piping or tubing at one or more points as appropriate.

The attachment member **120** is proximate to the upper most end of each stanchion **108** opposite from the base portion **114**. The attachment member **120** provides a connection point between the stanchion **108** and an end connector of the hammock **106**. In some implementations, the hammock **106** may attach directly to the attachment member **120**. In some implementations, the end connector of the hammock **106** may include a separate suspension mechanism such as a rope, chain, or other device that connects between the attachment member **120** and the hammock **106** where, for example, additional slack is desired or required in suspending the hammock **106**. The attachment member **120** depicted in FIGS. 2A and 2B includes a rounded piece with a circular aperture through the attachment member **120**. In one example, the attachment member **120** can be an eye bolt, eyelet, or other fitting. The hammock end connector can connect to the attachment member **120** to secure the hammock **106**. For instance, a rope or other line may loop through the aperture and be tied to the attachment member **120**. Alternatively, a carabineer or other clip may similarly lock around the opening of the attachment member **120**. In some implementations, the attachment member **120** is rotatable so that it can swivel about a longitudinal axis of the stanchion **108**. The height of the attachment member **120** may also be adjustable, for example, by sliding and locking into position a telescoping portion of the stanchion **108**.

The stanchion **108** can include finishes and features that may increase the aesthetic appeal, durability, safety, and/or convenience of the hammock system **105**. For instance, the stanchion **108** may be powder coated or otherwise painted to improve its look and corrosion resistance. In some implementations, the stanchion **108** may be galvanized, or plated with chrome, nickel, or the like. In some implementations, the stanchion **108** may be made from anodized aluminum. For safety, the stanchion **108** can be padded. Safety notices may be packaged with the hammock system **105** and/or attached to the stanchion **108** that provide instructions for proper use of the system **105** and that may warn against unsafe uses of the system **105**, such as may occur when the vehicle **102** is

moving. The hammock system **105** can also be packed into a portable and compact carrying case for easy storage and transportation.

In another embodiment, a hammock system can be installed on a pickup truck that includes two or more recesses located along a surface of the box sidewalls that define the bed of the pickup truck. In some uses, the recesses are stake pockets used to secure cargo racks or covers on the pickup truck. Pickup trucks may include two or more stake pocket recesses with at least one located on each on the left and right sidewalls of the pickup truck box. In some examples, the stake pockets in the box sidewall of the pickup truck have a substantially rectangular opening of approximately 1.75x2.33 inches. In other examples, the stake pocket openings may have other sizes. The stanchions of the hammock system can be sized slightly smaller than the openings of the stake pockets, so that the stanchions can slide into a respective pair of stake pockets to support the stanchions in substantially vertical positions. The hammock system can also include one or more hammocks **106** connected between the pair of stanchions and suspended over the pickup truck. The hammock **106** can be suspended across a width of the pickup truck, along a side of the pickup truck, or diagonally, according to locations of the particular stake pockets used to support the stanchions. As described above with reference to FIGS. 1A-2B, the stanchions may include a flange or similar bracket to secure the stanchions in respective stake pockets in the box sidewall of the pickup truck. The stanchions may include an attachment member that is proximate a top end of the stanchion to which the hammock **106** can connect. In some embodiments, the attachment member can be offset from a base portion of the stanchion by virtue of an elongate angled member of the stanchion.

Referring now to FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 4, another example of a hammock system **305** can be configured to install on one or more boats **302** and **303**. The boats **302** and **303** in these embodiments include one or more recesses or receiving structures that receive and mate with a pair of hammock support structures **308** of the hammock system **305**. In the implementations shown, the receiving structures are rod holders **312**, which are popularly found in fishing boats, sporting boats, cruisers, and other watercraft. As such, the hammock support structures **308** can mate with the rod holders **312** and operate as stanchions to support the hammock **106** during use. In other implementations, the receiving structures can be other types of recesses, openings, holes, and the like.

The rod holders **312** can be installed in an opening in the gunwale **304** of the boats **302** and **303**. Particular rod holders **312** may include an elongated metal or plastic tube that extends below the surface of the gunwale **304** at an angle. A flange at or near the top of the rod holders **312** can be connected to the gunwale **304** to secure the rod holders **312** in place. The hammock system **305** can mate with flush-mounted rod holders **312** and/or with externally mounted rod holders **312** that attach to other surfaces of the boats **302** and **303**, such as a railing or a wall. The size and configuration of rod holders **312** can vary in some cases. However, the barrel of the rod holder **312** commonly has an inside diameter of approximately 1.625 inches, and its length may range from about five to ten inches. When installed, the rod holder **312** is angled between about 15 degrees and 30 degrees from vertical. The angle of some particular rod holders can extend beyond this range in some examples. In such cases, the hammock system **305** can be adapted to properly function in concert with the particular rod holders.

The hammock system **305** can be setup in various configurations in the boats **302** and **303**. For example, the hammock

106 can be suspended across the width of the boat, with one stanchion **308** installed in a rod holder **312** on the starboard side of the boat, and the other stanchion **308** installed in a rod holder **312** on the port side of the boat. Stanchions **308** can mate with an appropriate rod holder **312** or other recess wherever they are available on the boat. In some implementations, both stanchions **308** of the hammock system **305** can be installed behind the console toward the stern of the boat **302**, as depicted in FIG. 3A. The hammock system **105** can also be installed in front of the console near the bow of the boat **303**, as depicted in FIG. 4. In some configurations, both stanchions **308** can be installed on the same side of the boats **302** or **303**, or the hammock **106** can be suspended diagonally across the boats **302** or **303**. In each configuration, the pair of stanchions **308** suspends the hammock **106** above a surface of the boats **302** and **303**. The surface of the boat may include a deck of the boat such as the interior floor of the cabin or deck floor, the gunwale **304**, and/or another surface of the boats **302** and **303**.

FIGS. 5A and 5B depict front and side views, respectively, of one of the stanchions **308** from FIGS. 3A, 3B, and 4. The stanchion **308** is configured to mate with a rod holder **312** or other recess or receiving structure on the boats **302** and **303**. The stanchion **308** includes an elongate angled member **316**, base notches **317a-b**, an extension portion **318**, and an attachment member **320**. Like the stanchion **108** described in reference to FIGS. 2A and 2B that is configured to mate with a stake pocket **112**, the stanchion **308** can be made of materials such as aluminum, aluminum alloys, stainless steel, steel, a steel alloy, fiberglass, a polymer material, or a combination thereof. Stainless steel, anodized aluminum, chrome-plated steel, or galvanized steel may be used, for example, to protect against corrosion. Aluminum, fiberglass, or plastic may be used for a lighter design. The component portions and members of the stanchion **308** may be mechanically connected or integrally formed as a unitary structure, as previously described in reference to stanchion **108**.

The elongate angled member **316** is configured to slidably insert into and mate with the rod holder **312**. The angled member **316** is substantially straight and has an outer diameter slightly smaller than the inner diameter of the rod holder **312**. For example, for a rod holder **312** having an inner diameter of 1.625 inches, the outer diameter of the angled member **316** may be approximately 1.5 inches. The length, 'L', of the angled member **316** is sufficient to secure the stanchion **308** when the hammock **106** is in use by one or more persons. In some implementations, the angled member **316** can extend the full length of the rod holder **312** and engage the rod holder **312** at its base. To prevent rotation of the stanchion **308**, one or more notches **317a-b** or other locking mechanism at the base of the angled member **316** can be configured to engage with bar members or protrusion that may be located at the end of the rod holder **312**.

The extension portion **318** extends above the angled member **316** at an angle, 'A', that can correspond to the angle of the rod holder **312**. In some implementations, the angle 'A' between the angled member **316** and the extension portion **318** may be fixed, and the angle 'A' may be designed according to an average or expected angle of one or more different rod holders **312**. In some implementations, the angle 'A' is within plus/minus ten degrees of the angle of the rod holder **312** that is defined by a longitudinal axis of the rod holder **312** and a vertical axis. When the stanchion **308** is inserted into the rod holder **312**, the extension portion **318** protrudes generally vertically above the rod holder **312** such that the attachment member **320** is positioned at an appropriate height to suspend the hammock **106**. The length of the extension portion **318** can be adjustable, for instance, by inserting a first part of the

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extension portion **318** into a larger second part of the extension portion **318** and coupling the first part at various extension positions relative to the second part like a tent pole.

The attachment member **320** is located proximate to the upper end of the stanchion **308**. The attachment member **320** provides a connection point between the stanchion **308** and an end of the hammock **106**. In some implementations, a separate end connector such as a rope, chain, or other line may connect between the attachment member **320** and the hammock where, for example, additional slack is desired or required in suspending the hammock **106**. Similar to the depiction in FIGS. 2A and 2B, the attachment member **320** includes a rounded piece with an opening through the attachment member **320**. In one example, the attachment member **320** can be an eye bolt, an eyelet, and/or another fitting. A corresponding mating structure from the end of the hammock **106** or other suspension mechanism can connect to the attachment member **320** to secure the hammock **106**. For instance, a rope or other line may loop through the opening and be tied to the attachment member **320**. Likewise, a carabineer or other clip may similarly lock around the opening of the attachment member **320**. In some implementations, the attachment member **320** may be rotatable so that it can swivel about a longitudinal axis of the extension portion **318**. In some embodiments, the height of the attachment member **320** may be adjusted.

While this specification contains many specific implementation details, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the claims, but rather as descriptions of features specific to particular implementations of particular embodiments. Certain features that are described in this specification in the context of separate implementations can also be implemented in combination in a single implementation. Conversely, various features that are described in the context of a single implementation can also be implemented in multiple implementations separately or in any suitable subcombination. Moreover, although features may be described above as acting in certain combinations and even initially claimed as such, one or more features from a claimed combination can in some cases be excised from the combination, and the claimed combination may be directed to a subcombination or variation of a subcombination.

Thus, particular implementations of the subject matter have been described. Other implementations are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of using a hammock system comprising:

inserting a first hammock support structure into a first pre-defined pocket of a vehicle by sliding a base portion of the first hammock support structure into engagement with the first pre-defined pocket of the vehicle and into a fixed position relative to the first pre-defined pocket;

inserting a second hammock support structure into a second pre-defined pocket of the vehicle by sliding a base portion of the second hammock support structure into engagement with the second pre-defined pocket of the vehicle and into a fixed position relative to the second pre-defined pocket; and

suspending a hammock between the first and second hammock support structures and above a surface of the vehicle by attaching a first end connector at a first end of the hammock to an upper attachment member of the first support structure, and by attaching a second end connector at a second end of the hammock opposite the first end to an upper attachment member of the second support structure, so that a length of the hammock from the first end to the second end extends between the first ham-

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mock support structure and the second hammock support structure when the hammock is suspended, wherein the first hammock support structure and the second hammock support structure are each made of a rigid material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle includes a flatbed trailer, the first and second pre-defined pockets of the vehicle each comprises a stake pocket of the flatbed trailer, and the surface of the vehicle comprises a cargo deck of the flatbed trailer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle comprises a boat and the first and second pre-defined pockets of the vehicle each comprises a rod holder that is adapted to receive a fishing rod.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle comprises a pickup truck, the first and second pre-defined pockets of the vehicle each comprises a stake pocket on the pickup truck, and the surface of the vehicle comprises a bed of the pickup truck.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein suspending the hammock between the first and second hammock support structures comprises attaching the first and second ends of the hammock to respective attachment members on each of the first and second hammock support structures.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the attachment member is rotatable relative to one of the first and second pre-defined pockets of the vehicle.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising adjusting a height of at least one of the attachment members.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing the first and second hammock support structures from the first and second pre-defined pockets of the vehicle, respectively, and storing the first and second support structures in a carrying case.

9. A hammock system comprising:

a hammock having a first end connector and a second end connector, the first end connector being located at a first end of the hammock, the second end connector being located at a second end of the hammock opposite the first end of the hammock, wherein a length of the hammock extending from the first end to the second end is arranged to be suspended using the first and second end connectors; and

first and second hammock support structures, wherein each of the first and second hammock support structures is made of a rigid material, wherein each of the first and second hammock support structures includes an upper attachment member to connect the respective hammock support structure to the first end connector or the second end connector of the hammock, wherein each of the first and second hammock support structures includes a vehicle connection adapter configured to releasably mate with a corresponding vehicle pocket of a vehicle, wherein the vehicle connection adapter is spaced apart from the upper attachment member such that the upper attachment member of the respective hammock support structure is elevated above the vehicle connection adapter when the vehicle connection adapter releasably mates with the corresponding vehicle pocket of the vehicle.

10. The hammock system of claim 9, further comprising the vehicle, wherein the vehicle includes a flatbed trailer, the vehicle pocket of the vehicle comprises a stake pocket of the flatbed trailer, and wherein the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures is elevated above a surface of the flatbed trailer when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock

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support structures releasably mates with the stake pocket, the surface of the vehicle comprising a cargo deck of the flatbed trailer.

11. The hammock system of claim 9, further comprising the vehicle, wherein the vehicle comprises a boat, the vehicle pocket of the vehicle comprises a rod holder that is adapted to receive a fishing rod, wherein the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures is elevated above a surface of the vehicle when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock support structures releasably mates with the rod holder, and the surface of the vehicle comprises a gunwale of the boat.

12. The hammock system of claim 11, wherein the upper attachment member is bent from the vehicle connection adapter at a first angle that is within fifteen degrees of a second angle defined by a longitudinal axis of the rod holder and a vertical axis.

13. The hammock system of claim 9, further comprising the vehicle, wherein the vehicle comprises a pickup truck, the vehicle pocket of the vehicle comprises a stake pocket of the pickup truck, and wherein the upper attachment member of each of the first and second hammock support structures is elevated above a surface of the pickup truck when the vehicle connection adapter of each of the first and second hammock support structures releasably mates with the stake pocket, the surface of the vehicle comprising a bed of the pickup truck.

14. A pair of hammock support structures for installing a hammock on a vehicle, each hammock support structure being made of a rigid material and comprising:

a vehicle connection adapter positioned proximate to a first end of the hammock support structure, the vehicle connection adapter comprising a base member configured to releasably mate with a corresponding vehicle pocket of a vehicle; and

an upper attachment member positioned proximate to a second end of the hammock support structure that is generally opposite from the first end of the hammock support structure, the upper attachment member being configured to attach to a corresponding end connector of a hammock and to mechanically support the corresponding end connector of the hammock in an elevated position when the hammock is suspended along its length from a first end of the hammock to a second end of the hammock.

15. The pair of hammock support structures of claim 14, wherein the second end of at least one of the hammock support structures is oriented substantially vertically when the

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vehicle connection adapter is releasably mated with the corresponding vehicle pocket of the vehicle.

16. The pair of hammock support structures of claim 14, wherein the vehicle connection adapter is shaped to slidably insert into a stake pocket of a flatbed trailer or a pickup truck.

17. The pair of hammock support structures of claim 14, wherein the vehicle connection adapter is shaped to slidably insert into a rod holder of a boat adapted to receive a fishing rod.

18. The pair of hammock support structures of claim 14, wherein each of the hammock support structures comprises a central elongate shaft portion positioned between the vehicle connection adapter and the upper attachment member, wherein the central elongate shaft portion extends longitudinally at an angle outwardly from a vertical plane defined by a side surface of one of the vehicle connection adapter and the upper attachment member.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the first hammock support structure has a flange that abuts at least a portion of a top surface of the first pre-defined pocket in the fixed position so as to vertically support the first hammock support structure in the fixed position, and

the second hammock support structure has a flange that abuts at least a portion of a top surface of the second pre-defined pocket in the fixed position so as to vertically support the second hammock support structure in the fixed position.

20. The hammock system of claim 9, wherein each of the first hammock support structure and the second hammock support structure includes a flange at a location along the respective hammock support structure above the vehicle connection adapter, the flange being configured to abut a top surface of the corresponding vehicle pocket of the vehicle when the respective hammock support structure is mated with the corresponding vehicle pocket so as to support the respective hammock support structure in an elevated position above a surface of the vehicle.

21. The pair of hammock support structures of claim 14, wherein each hammock support structure in the pair of hammock support structures further comprises a flange that is located at a position along the respective hammock support structure above the vehicle connection adapter and that is configured to abut a top surface of the corresponding vehicle pocket of the vehicle for the respective hammock support structure so as to support the hammock support structure above a surface of the vehicle.

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